

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 08684 160623Z

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ACTION SS-30

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R 160505Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6810

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8684

EXDIS

EYES ONLY FOR AMB MARTIN THRU SPRINGSTEEN(S/S)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS VS

SUBJ: FY 75 MASF PROGRAM FOR VIETNAM

FOLG TEL SENT ACTION SECDEF, CJCS 01 JUL 74 REPEATED FOR YOU

QUOTE

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE PERSONAL FOR THE SECY AND THE CHAIRMAN, JCS

SUBJ: FY 75 MASF PROGRAM FOR VIET-NAM

1. I HAVE STUDIED ALL RECENT MESSAGES ON THIS SUBJECT WITH GREAT CARE. I DO NOT BELIEVE THE ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS APPARENTLY CONTEMPLATED FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FY 75 PROGRAM WILL ACTUALLY ACCOMPLISH WHAT SENATOR STENNIS, CHAIRMAN HEBERT, CHAIRMAN MAHON AND OTHERS ON THE ARMED SERVICES AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES CLEARLY HAVE IN MIND. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WHAT SENATOR STENNIS SAID, IN EFFECT, IS THAT HE BELIEVES WE SHOULD SUPPORT VIET-NAM BUT THE CHAOS OF THE PAST FISCAL YEAR CANNOT BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE.

2. I COMPLETELY AGREE AND I WELCOME THE SINGLE APPROPRIATION. BUT IF MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRIORITY WE STILL ATTACH TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE RVN IS CORRECT, I THINK WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE MORE IMAGINATIVE AND RESOURCEFUL IN DEVELOPING THE
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FRAMEWORK FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FY 75 VIET-NAM

PROGRAM. PUTTING IT IN DSAA AND REVERTING TO MAP PROCEDURES IS AN EASY SOLUTION SINCE IT REQUIRES NO THOUGHT, BUT, IN MY JUDGMENT, IT WILL NOT PROVIDE THE KIND OF EFFICIENT, FLEXIBLE AND ACCURATE ACCOUNTING THE CONGRESS HAS PUT US ON NOTICE IT WILL DEMAND.

3. AT MY REQUEST AN INTENSIVE REVIEW HAS BEEN CONDUCTED BY GENERAL MURRAY, HIS STAFF, WITH THE INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE OF TDY PERSONNEL FROM THE OJCS. I HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH THEM. WE HAVE DEVELOPED SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT CONCEPT, SPECIFICALLY TAILORED TO MEET THE PECULIAR AND ALMOST UNIQUE SITUATION IN VIET-NAM.

4. I HAVE ASKED COLONEL WILLIAM MITCHELL OF THE JOINT STAFF TO TAKE BACK WITH HIM A FULL BRIEFING OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL CONCEPT AND OPERATING PROCEDURES WHICH I BELIEVE CAN ACCOMPLISH THE CONGRESSIONAL INTENT FAR BETTER THAN WHAT IS APPARENTLY PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATED. IF IT IS AGREEABLE I WOULD LIKE FOR COLONEL MITCHELL ON MY BEHALF TO PRESENT THE BRIEFING FIRST TO THE JCS AND THEN TO THE SECY AND I WOULD HOPE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH BOTH THE CHAIRMAN AND THE SECY WHEN I RETURN IN MID-JULY TO WASHINGTON.
MARTIN

UNQUOTE.
LEHMANN

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